

REMARKS

Applicants have reviewed this Application in light of the Office Action mailed March 22, 2006. Claims 1-12, 14-22 and 24-26 are pending in this Application, and Claims 13, 23, 27 and 28 were cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 8, 9, 11, 12, 14-20, 24-26 and 28 stand rejected. Claims 3, 6, 7, 10, 13, 21-23 and 27 were objected to. Claims 1, 14, 16, 18, 22, 24 and 26 have been amended to further define various features of Applicants' invention. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and favorable action in this case.

Claim Objections

Claim 27 was objected to because of informalities. Claim 27 has been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer, and Claim 26 has been amended has been amended consistent with the limitations of Claim 26, and the informalities objected to in the Office Action have been corrected. Applicants respectfully request full allowance of Claim 26 as amended.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 3 and 22 were rejected by the Examiner under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite and failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. Regarding Claim 3, the Office Action asserts that there is insufficient antecedent basis for the limitation "the circuit breaker." Claim 1 has been amended to include the limitation of a "shared circuit breaker," this providing sufficient antecedent basis for the limitation "the circuit breaker" in Claim 3 which depends from Claim 1. Regarding Claim 22, the Office Action asserts that there is insufficient antecedent basis for the limitation "the power line data interface." Claim 22 has been amended to depend from Claim 21 which recites "a power line data interface" thus providing sufficient antecedent basis for the limitation "the power line data interface in Claim 22. Applicants respectfully request full allowance of Claim 3 and Claim 22 as amended.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-2, 4, 8, 11-12, 14-17 and 24-25 were rejected by the Examiner under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,842,027 issued to Florin Oprescu et al. (“Oprescu”).

Claim 28 was rejected by the Examiner under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0104031 by Jock F. Tomlinson et al. (“Tomlinson”).

Claims 18 and 19 were rejected by the Examiner under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0148060 by Rong-Jung Lee (“Lee”).

Independent Claims 1, 14 and 16 have been amended to be consistent with the limitations of Claim 13 which the Office Action has indicated to be allowable. Independent Claim 18 has been amended to be consistent with the limitations of Claim 23 which the Office Action has indicated to be allowable. Claim 24 has been amended to be consistent with the limitations of Claim 6 which the Office Action has indicated to be allowable. Claim 26 has been amended to be consistent with the limitations of Claim 13 which the Office Action has indicated to be allowable. For analogous reasons, Applicant submits that Independent Claims 1, 14, 16, 18 and 24 are not anticipated by Oprescu, Tomlinson or Lee.

Given that Claims 2, 4, 8, and 11-12 depend from Claim 1, Claim 15 depends from Claim 14, Claim 17 depends from Claim 16, Claim 19 depends from Claim 18, and Claim 25 depends from Claim 24, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 2, 4, 8, 11-12, 15, 17, 19 and 25 are allowable. As such, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider, withdraw the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102 and allow Claims 1-2, 4, 8, 11-2, 14-19 and 24-25.

Respecting the rejection of Claim 28, Claim 28 has been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1, 5, 9, 20 and 26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lee as applied to claims 18 and 19.

Independent Claim 1 has been amended to be consistent with the limitations of Claim 13 which the Office Action has indicated to be allowable. Independent Claim 18 has been amended to be consistent with the limitations of Claim 23 which the Office Action has indicated to be allowable. Claim 26 has been amended to be consistent with the limitations of Claim 27 which the Office Action has indicated to be allowable. For analogous reasons, Applicant submits that Independent Claims 1, 18 and 26 are not rendered obvious by Lee.

Given that Claims 5 and 9 depend from Claim 1 and Claim 20 depends from Claim 18, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 5, 9 and 20 are allowable. As such, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider, withdraw the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103 and allow Claims 1, 5, 9, 20 and 26.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant appreciate Examiner's consideration and indication that Claims 3, 6-7, 10, 13, 21-23 and 27 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants submit that Claims 3, 6-7 and 10 depend from Claim 1 shown to be in condition for allowance above and Claims 21 and 22 depend from Claim 18 shown to be in condition for allowance above. Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 3, 6-7, 10 and 21-22 are in condition for allowance. With respect to objected to Claims 13 and 27, Claims 13 and 27 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Information Disclosure Statement

Applicants would like to bring to the Examiner's attention that Applicants filed an Information Disclosure Statement on November 10, 2003. Applicants respectfully request that the Information Disclosure Statement be considered and cited in the examination of the above-referenced application. Applicants attach a copy of the Information Disclosure Statement and PTO Form 1449 filed November 10, 2003, for the Examiner's convenience and a copy of the postcard receipt evidencing receipt by the Patent Office.

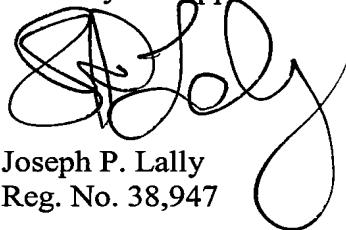
CONCLUSION

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's careful review of the Application. Applicants believe this case is in condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the Applications and allowance of Claims 1-12, 14-22 and 24-26.

Applicants believe there are no fees due at this time, however, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees necessary or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-0383 of Baker Botts L.L.P. in order to effectuate this filing

If there are any matters concerning this Application that may be cleared up in a telephone conversation, please contact Applicants' attorney at 512.322.2680.

Respectfully submitted,
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Date: 22 June 2006

SEND CORRESPONDENCE TO:

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Enclosure: 1) A copy of the Information Disclosure Statement and PTO Form 1449 filed November 10, 2003